



IFUS

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7528.0002-15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Cyril J. SCHWEICH, Jr. et al.)
Application No.: 10/073,968) Group Art Unit: 3762
Filed: February 14, 2002)
For: HEART WALL TENSION) Examiner: G. Evanisko
REDUCTION APPARATUS) Confirmation No.: 8329
)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION REQUIREMENTS

In a restriction and election requirement dated November 22, 2006, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following allegedly distinct claim groups: (I) claims 15-62 and 66-79; and (II) claims 63-65. In addition, the Examiner required election between the allegedly patentably distinct species of Figures 1-6.

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterizations concerning the claims and various exemplary embodiments, and Applicants reserve the right to argue the distinctness or lack of distinctness of the claims and embodiments in this case or in a case claiming priority to this case.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants nonetheless provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 15-62 and 66-79, and Figure 6, with traverse. The claims of Group I that are readable on Figure 6 include at least claims 34-55 and 57-60.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 18, 2006

By: 
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